

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2008

Council Members Present/Participating:

Karen Benson, Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D., Ed Duff, Gregory Greven, Todd Mayfield, Sue Orton, Renee Powell, Joe Sartorius

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Joe Colagiovanni, Mike Esser, Matthew Hughes, Mary Ellen Jenison, Sarah Olson, Dr. Hani Soudah, Molly Tallarico

Department Liaisons:

Kristin Funk (Dept. of Economic Development – DED/DWD), Chris Larsen (Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS), Phyllis Launius (Office of the State Court Administrator - OSCA), Robin Rust (DMH), Brenda Treadwell-Martin (Missouri Department of Transportation - MODOT)

Staff: Linda Baker, Donna Borgmeyer, Claudia Browner, Isabelle Harris

Guests: Stephanie Cox (Independent Living Resource Center - ILRC), Lauren Tsutsumi (ILRC), Stephanie Goodwin (Homes That Change Lives/Missourians for Quality Home Care)

Real Time Captioner: Debbie Reithmeyer

Interim Chair Karen Benson called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. With eight Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting.

The agenda for the day was approved with two minor changes. The minutes from the June 13 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Report from Interim Council Chair Karen Benson:

Karen Benson presented the Council with a proposed “policy” for letters of support. The purpose of the policy is to allow for a quicker response time from the Council whenever there is a request for a letter of support. The proposed policy was discussed, amended and adopted by unanimous vote. The full text of the policy is:

Proposed Council “Policy” for Letters of Support

The Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Disability shall use his/her own judgment in providing letters of support when all of the following are true:

- It is solicited from a known agency/organization
- It is not tied to the profit-making ventures of a for-profit agency

- It is in keeping with the strategic plan of the GCD
- It is in keeping with the statutory responsibilities of the GCD
- It does not require legislative action

If any of the above conditions is not met, the Executive Director shall survey the Council via e-mail, giving each member two (2) working days to respond. After two working days, the Executive Director shall act according to the majority opinion of the responses received. In case of a tied vote, the Council chair will cast the deciding vote.

The Executive Director shall retain copies of all responses received, the action will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Council for the purpose of entering it in the minutes. All supportive documents will be entered into the minutes of that meeting. ■

Next, Karen Benson proposed changing GCD's bylaws to better address vacancies and absences by rewording Section 3 of the bylaws to read: *Vacancies/removal or resignation of Board Member*

All vacancies shall be appointed by the Governor in the manner of and as provided by law. A Council member that has 3 consecutive, unexcused absences shall be presented to the membership for a vote of recommended removal, at the next meeting following the accrual of absences. A request for replacement of the Council member will be presented to the Governor based on a 2/3 vote of the Council members present. Notification of GCD staff before a scheduled meeting qualifies as an excused absence.

After some discussion, the Council members unanimously agreed to put the bylaw change up for vote. The proposed change will be e-mailed to all Council members with a voting deadline of 10 days.

Karen Benson announced the resignation of Council member John Wallace from St. Joseph.

Next, the Council members set the 2009 meeting dates for January 9, April 3, September 11, and November 13, 2009.

Lastly, Karen Benson reported that she would prepare a Transition Report for the Office of Administration, together with GCD staff.

Action Items: Send proposed bylaw changes to Council for vote.
 Prepare transition report for new administration.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda Baker welcomed the new Council member Dr. Joan Bergstrom. She then summarized her ED report.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF):

The 2008 MYLF had a record participation of 24 students. This year's mock legislative piece was the addition of the history of disability culture to school curriculums in Missouri. Linda recommended trying to find a legislator to sponsor legislation to make

MYLF a budget line item and to incorporate disability culture and history into the school curricula.

The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (MPCDD) will no longer provide the financial support of past years to the MYLF. GCD may still apply to MPCDD for a stipend to sponsor one delegate. GCD will need to look for new funding sources and grants. A new contract agreement with ILRC will give GCD the opportunity to apply for grants as a 501(C)3 entity.

Business Leadership Network (BLN):

Efforts are under way to establish a Greater Kansas City BLN with Kansas. Kansas has set aside money from a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to fund an executive director position for the Greater Kansas City BLN.

Legislative Education Project and Legislative Update:

Participation in the 2008 LEP was increased due to the customized training GCD offered. GCD is working on a pilot project with college students to earn college credits for attending the LEP in 2009.

ADA Restoration Act:

The ADA amendment was passed in the Senate and is awaiting the President's signature.

Inclusion Awards:

The deadline for this year's Inclusion Award nominations is October 31. The following Council members and State Liaisons volunteered to judge the nominations: Joe Sartorius, Phyllis Launius, Sue Orton, Karen Benson, Greg Greven and Brenda Treadwell-Martin.

Disability Portal:

GCD and the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) have developed a new disability web portal. The new website will be launched in October. Council members and State Liaisons are encouraged to view the website (www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov) and send comments to GCD.

Initiative to hire people with disabilities:

Linda Baker had a meeting with various state departments to start an initiative to promote hiring of people with disabilities in state government.

Action item: View the new Disability Portal website and send comments to GCD.

Department Liaison Information:

The department liaisons introduced themselves and gave an update about their departments.

Robin Rust (DMH) reported that the Missouri Planning Council has awarded a grant to an organization to develop an affordable housing registry for the State of Missouri.

The Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) has recently awarded a grant to the Columbus Organization to develop a train the trainer program for Missouri on Positive Behavior Supports.

Under the Mental Health Systems Transformation Grant, a plan has been developed based on feedback from stakeholders. This plan can be viewed on the DMH website.

Phyllis Launius (OSCA) reported that in August she conducted disability awareness training at the Jackson County courthouse together with The Whole Person center for independent living. In October, there will be a court clerk training to include ADA, FLMA and other employment topics. Renee Powell complimented and thanked Phyllis for all of her work on behalf of the GCD.

Kristin Funk (DED, Division of Workforce Development) reported that the Disability Navigator Program received funding to continue the program for one more year until June 2009. There are currently nine disability navigator positions in Missouri.

Chris Larsen (DHSS) reported about the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism's (CERT) efforts to provide emergency shelters for special needs population. CERT has secured funding for two emergency caches for rural Missouri areas which will contain wheelchairs, clinical beds, and other supplies for emergency response. DHSS has put together a long-term recovery team to assist the special needs population in case of an emergency.

Committee Meetings:

Recess was taken for lunch while Legislative Committee members met.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee:

GCD received 386 responses for the legislative priorities poll, which is about 175 more than last year. The priorities indicated are the same as in previous years: Housing, Transportation, Insurance/Health Care, and Employment.

Website Committee:

The website committee will be reestablished and consist of the following Council members: Todd Mayfield, Greg Greven, and Ed Duff.

Strategic Planning Committee meeting:

The Council as a whole discussed and revised the Strategic Planning document. Linda Baker will revise and update the document and e-mail it to the Council members for comment and vote.

Action Item:

Revise Strategic Plan and e-mail it to Council members for vote and comment.

Public Comment

Stephanie Goodwin (Quality Home Care) reported about a ballot measure under Proposition B to create a Home Care Council to look at the consumer directed services (CDS) program and make recommendations to the legislature for changes of the CDS. This ballot measure would also create a statewide registry of attendants.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Discussion items to be included in the agenda for November:

- Percentage of Council members with disabilities and Council membership in general
 - A Council member with disabilities objected to the low percentage of persons with disabilities represented on the Council
- Structure of Council committees
- New Council member orientation packet

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 14, 2008 at 9:30 AM** at the Governor's Office Building in Jefferson City, Room 470.

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Send proposed bylaw changes to Council for vote.	Karen Benson/Donna Borgmeyer
Prepare transition report for new administration.	Karen Benson and GCD staff.
View new disability portal website (www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov) and send comments to GCD.	Council members/state liaisons.
Revise Strategic Plan and e-mail to Council for comment and vote.	Linda Baker

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
October 7, 2008